

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A self-invertible inverse latex composition comprising:

an oil phase with a constituent solvent being one or more fatty acid esters of formula (Ib):

$R_1 - (C=O) - O - R_3 (Ib)$

wherein:

R_1 represents a saturated or unsaturated and linear or branched hydrocarbonaceous chain comprising from 7 to 30 carbon atoms,

R_3 represents, independently of R_1 , a saturated or unsaturated and linear or branched hydrocarbonaceous chain comprising from 1 to 30 carbon atoms;

an aqueous phase;

at least one emulsifying agent of water-in-oil (W/O) type;

at least one emulsifying agent of oil-in-water (O/W) type; and

from 20% to 70% by weight of a branched or crosslinked polyelectrolyte, wherein said polyelectrolyte is either a homopolymer based on a monomer having either a partially or

completely sulfidized strong acid functional group or a partially or completely sulfidized weak acid functional group, or a copolymer based on at least one monomer having a strong acid functional group copolymerized either with at least one monomer having a weak acid functional group or with at least one neutral monomer, or a copolymer based on at least one monomer having a weak acid functional group copolymerized with at least one neutral monomer,

wherein the oil phase, the aqueous phase, the at least one emulsifying agent of water-in-oil (W/O) type, the at least one emulsifying agent of oil-in-water (O/W) type, and the 20% to 70% by weight of a branched or crosslinked polyelectrolyte form a self-invertible, inverse water-in-oil latex composition.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The composition as defined in Claim [[2]] 1, wherein for formula (Ib), R_1 , R_2 and R_3 represent, independently of one another, a radical chosen from the heptyl, octyl, nonyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, octadecyl, nonadecyl, icosyl, unicosyl, docosyl, heptadecenyl, icosenyl, unicosenyl, docosenyl or heptadecadienyl or decenyl radicals.

4. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 3, wherein for formula (Ib), the $R_1-C(=O)-$ group represents one of the octanoyl (caprylyl), decanoyl, undecylenoyl, dodecanoyl (lauroyl), tetradecanoyl (myristyl), hexadecanoyl (palmitoyl), octadecanoyl (stearyl), icosanoyl

(arachidoyl), docosanoyl (behenoyl), 8-octadecenoyl (oleyl), icosenoyl (gadoloyl), 13-docosenoyl (erucyl), 9,12-octadecadienoyl (linoleoyl) or 9,12,15-octa-decatrienoyl (linolenoyl) radicals.

5-10. (canceled)

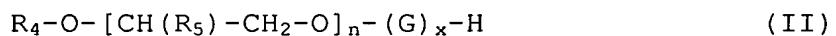
11. (currently amended) The composition as defined in Claim [[10]] 1, wherein the constituent solvent of the oil phase of the inverse latex is octyl palmitate.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the emulsifying agent or agents of the water-in-oil type are chosen from sorbitan monooleate, sorbitan isostearate or sorbitan oleate ethoxylated with 5 mol of ethylene oxide.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the emulsifying agent or agents of the oil-in-water type are chosen from the compounds of formula (II):



wherein R_4 represents a saturated or unsaturated and linear or branched hydrocarbonaceous radical comprising from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, R_5 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl radical comprising 1 or 2 carbon atoms, G represents the residue of a saccharide, x represents a decimal number between 1 and 5 and n is equal either to zero or to an integer 9.

16. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 15, wherein for formula (II), x is between 1 and 3.

17. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 15, wherein for formula (II), G represents the glucose residue or the xylose residue and n is equal to 0.

18. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 15, wherein for formula (II), R₄ represents an octyl, decyl, undecyl, dodecyl, tetradecyl or hexadecyl radical.

19. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the strong acid functional group of the monomer is a sulphonic acid functional group or a phosphonic acid functional group, partially or completely salified, and the monomer is 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulphonic acid, partially or completely salified in the form of an alkali metal salt.

20-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the polyelectrolyte is a copolymer of the sodium salt or of the ammonium salt of 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propenyl)amino]-1-propanesulphonic acid (a₂) and of acrylamide (d) in an (a₂)/(d) molar ratio of between 50/50 and 30/70.

27-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 1, comprising from 4% to 10% by weight of emulsifying agents.

30. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 29, wherein from 20% to 50% of the total weight of the emulsifiers are water-in-oil emulsifiers and 80% to 50% of the total emulsifiers are oil-in-water emulsifiers.

31. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the oil phase represents from 15% to 40% of the weight of the said composition.

32. (previously presented) The composition as defined in Claim 1, further comprising one or more additives chosen from complexing agents, transfer agents or chain-limiting agents.

33-35. (canceled)